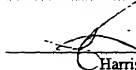


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2-25-03Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to (703) 305-7718 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 13, 2003.

  
Harris A. Wolin

Attorney Docket No.: SAIC 19.190 (100788-00051)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Marcello Toncelli  
Serial No. : 10/031,552  
Filed : January 18, 2002  
Title : Improved Method for the Production of Slabs ...  
Examiner : Christopher A. Fiorilla  
Group Art Unit : 1731

February 13, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 20, 2002, please amend the subject application as follows:

11154402.01

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GROUP 1700